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The Grace Peterson Research Colloquium

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Abstract

Background: Domestic violence is a global health and social issue that occurs all over the world regardless of race, religion, economy, level of education, and cultural group. On average, approximately twenty people are victims of physical violence each minute (The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2015). Furthermore, domestic violence is on the rise with pregnant women. In the time it takes to read this paper, an assault of domestic violence will occur somewhere in the world (Walton-Moss & Campbell, 2002).

Objectives: This integrative review of literature will examine how to improve nurses' roles in decreasing domestic violence during pregnancy. It will discuss how to train nurses to screen and assess the patient and how to educate patients about domestic violence.

Method: An integrative review of the literature using Whittemore and Knafl's (2005) updated methodology was used. This literature review provided an understanding of the phenomenon of domestic violence and nurses' roles. This review identifies qualitative and quantitative studies in an organized form to make informed decisions about the phenomenon of concern of nurses' roles in domestic violence.

Findings/Results: Patients stated the majority of health care providers focus on patients' physical abuse and not emotional abuse (Baig & Rodriguez, 2012). Nurses have not managed domestic violence well because they lack the understanding of how to screen and available resources for patients. Nurses must be aware of clinical warning signs that might not be presentable to their patients. Thus, they need education and training to assess patients (Stinson, 2006). Nurses need to understand the importance of responding to patients disclosing domestic violence in a caring manner. Nurses must be able to ask open-ended questions in an empathetic way (Berlinger, 2004). When asking open-ended questions, nurses must be active listeners, using their therapeutic skills until the patients are ready to seek help.

Conclusion: According to the articles found in the three fields of nursing, psychology, and public health, in order to improve nurses' roles, nurses should screen, assess, and educate the patient. Nurses need to overcome their fears and develop skills to screen and assess patients for domestic violence. Also educators and hospitals should provide programs or continuing education on domestic violence for nurses to improve their roles.

Key words: domestic violence during pregnancy, educate, skill, nurses' roles, pregnancy, domestic violence, intimate partner violence, and screening or assessing.